carriers during the last 5 years nas been as under:—

	Air India	Foreign carriers
1991-92	0.4	6.7
1992-93	7.6	9.1
1993-94	−6.5	7.3
1994-95	9.3	3.9
1995-96	20.3	16.3

Thus it can be seen that Air India's performance has shown steady improvement during the last two years.

Changing the Composition of Export

*525. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change the composition of exports during the next five years;

(b) if so, whether any ground work has been done;

(c) what is the proposed outline of the policy; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Exim policy (1997-2002) all the commodities could be exported excepting those in the negative list of exports. The country's export basket is diversified and consists of a large numbr of items in different commodity groups such as plantations, Agri. & Allied products, Marine products, Ores & minerals, Leather & manufactures, Gems & Jewellery, Sports Goods, Chemicals, & related products, Engineering Goods, Electronic Goods, project Goods, Textiles, Handicrafts, Carpets, Cotton raw, Petroleum products etc. The composition and performance of exports is influenced inter-alia by international market conditions tariff and non-tariff barriers besides domestic factors such as the policy framework, supply conditions/capabilities, infrastructure, cost of export credit etc.

Having regard to the export performance and the country's potential for exports, it has been decided to evolve a medium term strategy for improving the growth of exports through country specific and commodity specific initiatives. For this purpose a Working Group within the Ministry has already initiated work. Apart from internal discussions and review, the Working Group will also hold discussions with Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards for finalising a medium term strategy shortly.

Air traffic passenger growth in the domestic aviation industry

*527. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for air traffic passenger growth in the domestic aviation industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) upto what extent these targets have been achieved;

(c) the target set for 1997-98;

(d) the reasons for not achieving the targets of air traffic passenger growth; and

(e) in what way Government propose to improve the passenger growth?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Traffic forecast according to the Planning Group on Aviation, set up by the Government, for carriage of domestic passenger traffic, was 29.9 million for the year 1996-97, the last year of the VIII Five Year Plan. The actual passengers carried were 11.9 million in 1996-97.

(c) The report of the Sub-Group to assess the growth in passenger and cargo traffic and capacity requirements during the 9th Five Year Plan has indicated the

likely passenger carriage during 1997-98 as 16.02 million. However, in view of the actual carriage for the year 1996-97 and taking a growth rate of 12.5%, the actual figure is likely to come down to 13.2 million.

(b) The reasons for not achieving the cumulative targets as indicated above can be attributed to suspension of A-320 operations during the year 1989—92 leading to capacity shortage, unfavourable industrial relations during the year 1992—96 in Indian Airlines, shortage of Commanders & Co-pilots etc.

(c) The steps taken for liberalising the economy coupled with improved industrial relations in Indian Airlines and availability of additional capacity with private operators on domestic routes, is likely to help improve the figures of passenger carriage. However, the growth of aviation industry is also dependent upon the general economic growth in the country as well as on foreign tourist arrivals.

Genetically Engineered rabies vaccines to sterilize stray Dogs

530. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether genetically engineered rabies vaccines have been devised to sterilize stray dogs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure human safety before use of such vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) There is no vaccine which can sterilize dogs. Genetically engineered anti-rabies vaccine for veterinary use has been developed mainly by the US scientists to prevent rabies. This vaccine has been found to be effective as an oral bait in some countries. However, the possible adverse effects on human beings and other animals cannot be ruled out.

(c) An institutional mechanism is already in place to consider bio-safety aspects of recombinant products or genetically modified microbes product before commercial use. Any proposal for field trial of such products will require prior clearance.

भरूच (गुजरात) में विमानपत्तन स्थापित करने की मांग

531. श्री अहमद पटेल: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

क्या यह सच है कि आम जनता, व्यापारियों, उद्यमियों और जन-प्रतिनिधियों ने भरूच (गुजरात) में विमानपत्तन स्थापित करने की मांग की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार लोगों की भावना का आदर करते हुए भरूच में एक विमानपत्तन स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सी०एम० इब्राहिम): (क) और (ख) अंकलेश्वर इण्डस्ट्रीज एसोसिएशन और गुजरात नर्मदा वैली फर्टिलाइजर्स कम्पनी से अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए थे।

(ग) और (घ) जी, नहीं। बड़ोदरा विमानपत्तन पास में होने के कारण भरूच में विमानपत्तन बनाना अपेक्षित नहीं है।

Request for regular flights from Pune to Sharjah

532. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that flowers adorning homes, hotels and offices in Europe are being exported from Maharashtra;